

Finding the Light:

Lara Love's True Story
with a Life-Changing Message



from the  of Lara Love
& Walk by Faith Ministry

Finding the Light
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Newest edition

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All scriptures from King James version of the Bible.

Dear friend,

Whether you're unfathomably successful in the world's eyes and live in a mansion as you indulge in the pleasures of this life, or homeless and hurting, wildly wealthy and living your dreams or spending the rest of your life on death row as some of my beloved friends are, a blue collar worker enjoying a typical American blue collar life, lost and broken or perfectly content with your life, living in my neighborhood or living on the other side of the world, poor and downtrodden or rich and think you have it all together, disabled and dying or an Olympic athlete in the throes of the best years of your life, a criminal who has yet to be caught or an abused person too scared to tell anyone, high on drugs you can't stop taking or high on an awesome life you can't get enough of, happily married or devastatingly divorced, no matter your story, we all have one.

Whether or not you can relate to my story, I can promise you this. The message that goes with it is the best message in the universe. And it's the one message no matter our individual stories every human

needs to hear. I pray you're blessed, forever changed, and indescribably inspired as you read what is contained herein.

With love,

Lara

MY STORY

I come from a background of childhood sexual abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, an eating disorder, self-mutilation, years of wanting to commit suicide, horrible anxiety, debilitating depression, gut-wrenching emotional pain, indescribable hopelessness, abandonment by my family when I confronted my main perpetrator of sexual abuse, continual broken relationships with men, abandonment by two husbands, two unwanted divorces, hospitals, the psychiatric ward, counselors, therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, self-help groups, recovery programs, medications, welfare, food stamps, charity care, long-term disability, total despair, total brokenness, darkness beyond measure. Despite being enormously blessed with being raised in a family that had a lot of love as well as much wealth and being very well loved and cared for overall, and receiving an excellent education, we had our problems that nobody else could see which affect me to this very day.

One night, decades ago, long before I started dealing with the sexual abuse, lost my family, and was

married and lost my marriages, I wrote something in a drunken scribble in my journal and forgot all about it until I was sober. "Please someone help me please." Several years later, I found that someone. And I found the way out of my crushing pain and utter brokenness. I found what would become for me the way out of darkness and into a light unimaginable, and what I would ultimately come to see is the only everlasting way out of the darkness of this world.

One day on a random beach on a random day with a random friend, I ran to the public restroom so I could sob in my incredible despair. I had just come out of a psychiatric ward followed by five weeks in the eating disorders unit of a hospital. I was dealing head on with the childhood sexual abuse and with the loss of my family.

In my complete despair, I cried out four simple words. "Please God help me." When I returned to the beach, I found what looked like a crumpled piece of trash at my feet. I picked it up and read what lay inside. It was a prayer written in someone's script handwriting.

On my hands and knees that night, broken beyond imagination, I spoke the prayer and was instantly transformed. I was so stunned by what transpired that I immediately called my counselor at the time and told her I thought I had finally gone completely over the edge and perhaps had been hallucinating. I had such an amazing, supernatural experience in terms of what I heard and saw that I could not fathom that something like that could happen to me. My counselor suggested that maybe something good had happened. Little did I know what had actually transpired, and how my life would never be the same. I had not gone over the edge into insanity. I had gone over the edge of my old life and into something beyond my wildest dreams. I had received the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though I could not start my physical life over again and choose different circumstances, I was reborn spiritually when I spoke that prayer and given a new start. Looking back in retrospect, I can see now that for some time before that night God had been wooing me, drawing me to Himself by His Holy Spirit. Over and over again, I would find myself in usually mostly empty churches not during service times, saying the

name Jesus. Though I believed in a generic God, I knew nothing about God nor did I know anything about Jesus. Even as I was falling apart by the very breath, desperately wanting out of the darkness, I was being drawn to the Lord. I had asked God numerous times to forgive me by then, but I had no understanding of sin, of repentance, of Jesus Christ and the cross. I simply couldn't resist what was pulling me, not comprehending it was God's Spirit leading me. In retrospect, I can see now God had planted seeds long before that, and was scattering seed through His children into my life even during that time, but nothing until then had become of them. The night I spoke that prayer, and received Jesus Christ, this marked the beginning of what I would only see years later with utter clarity.

I had spent decades looking for a physical something or a human someone to take away my pain and make me whole. Little did I know the someone I needed wasn't human at all. The someone I had cried out to in my drunken scrawl several years earlier, though I had not known it at the time, was God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a woman who had grown up in a Jewish family that didn't believe in God, and as a woman who dabbled, flirted, and engaged in all sorts of dangerous and false spiritual practices, including agnosticism and atheism, the last thing I expected was to find my salvation in the Lord God almighty through faith in Jesus Christ.

My life didn't get easier the day I received Jesus. It became much harder. I discovered only later that God never promises us an easy life. But He promises believers in and followers of Jesus everlasting life and invites us into a breathtakingly beautiful forever relationship with Him. I didn't know back then Christ's followers can have an amazing loving relationship with God on this earth - and forever.

Nor did I know back then Jesus didn't want me to just believe in Him. He wanted me to follow Him. This is true for us all, but how ignorant I was! When I finally picked up the Bible and began to learn and live the life God planned for me, everything changed. Not my circumstances, which remained hard and are hard to this very day. But I began to develop a relationship with God so beautiful and so awesome that I realize

today that I can have the love and hope and joy and peace and faith and trust and fulfillment and intimacy that I had wanted all along but could never find in this world.

I was to come to find that the love, light, hope, joy, peace, faith, trust, fulfillment, and eternal intimate fellowship with God Christ's followers can have are not contingent on the circumstances of our lives, but are dependent on a rock solid relationship with God in Jesus Christ. I had lived my life on a roller coaster, continuously feeling high when things went well and desperately depressed and broken when things went poorly which they so often did. Over time, as my relationship with the Lord eventually grew, I realized I no longer needed to live my life on that roller coaster. God wanted to teach me how to walk day by day in His magnificent and glorious light – the light of the Lord Jesus Christ – no matter my circumstances.

When I look back, the biggest missing piece in my life was not just that for decades I hadn't believed in Jesus Christ. It was that from what I recall anyway that nobody took the time, love, and care to sit down with me and to clearly and carefully explain exactly

how I could have a true fresh start in life, a brand new beginning, leaving behind the darkness and living a light-filled life, enjoying the awesome blessings of God, carrying with me continuously the hope of everlasting life all the while learning to rejoice moment by moment in the indescribably amazing beauty of being in forever fellowship with God through Christ. Oh, if only I had known! If only I had known and understood the true Gospel message, how to be born again through Christ and how to live and thrive and rejoice as a genuine follower of Christ as God by His Spirit and through His amazing Word would ultimately teach me. A life lived in sold out commitment to Him!

I hope you will let me be the someone in your life to share with you the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that you, too, will get a fresh start, leave behind the darkness and come into God's magnificent light, develop an amazing loving relationship with God on this earth, and look forward to everlasting life. You don't have to stay in the darkness any longer. Are you ready to live in the light?

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

Many years later now, I can honestly say I have a stunningly, awesomely, amazingly, indescribably, phenomenally rich, fulfilling, exciting, peace-filled, joyful, and light-filled life. For one reason alone. The Lord. I do not find any of this in the world around me, not especially in my circumstances and ongoing challenges. I find it all in Christ who now lives in and through me. For God by His Spirit has led me into and taught me how to have an ever growing, wonderful, fabulous, intimate, closer-by-the-breath, personal relationship with Himself through Christ as He conforms me to Christ's image.

You might be surprised to know the circumstances of my life are still incredibly hard and painful. I do not have the life that most people would want. My family situation remains tragic, though I am blessed immeasurably God healed my relationship with my beloved Mom and privileged God now uses me to talk to her about Christ and to show her His love. I lost my long-time beloved pastor unexpectedly, have lost numerous of my sweet dogs who are like my little family since I no longer have one, lost my closest

female friend who was found dead with a gunshot wound to her chest, my ex-husband whom I still love approaches the end of his life with a life-threatening medical disease and a life-threatening prescription drug addiction, I am single, live on a poverty level income, have no social life to be available to the Lord and for ministry 24-7, live an exceedingly simple lifestyle, lost most of what I have ever wanted and did not get what I once desperately desired, and work exceedingly hard in my ministry on a bare-bones budget with virtually no regular human help, and yet I can promise you I am blessed literally beyond measure. The love, joy, peace, hope, freedom, excitement, passion, sense of purpose, trust, faith, blessedness, light, and so very much more that fills me daily is absolutely without measure. Of course it is. It comes from God!

Why do I have this now? Because I am at last wholly, 100% the Lord's. For years, I was a believer in Jesus Christ but not a follower. I refused to give up the ways of this world, and I lived for myself. For a long time, I didn't read the Bible and solidly plant myself in the Body of Christ with believers in Christ

who could help me to follow Him. I did not attend church nor have a biblically sound pastor. When I finally started studying the Bible, going to church, and learning, I did nothing with the Bible. I was a hearer, not a doer of God's Word. I was also for a long while under false teaching, sucked in by the exceedingly deceptive "prosperity gospel". I was taught I could basically wave my magic wand and get God to do whatever I wanted. I thought God was here to serve me instead of that Jesus is Lord and that I was created to love, serve, and glorify God. My life was a mess! My heart was a mess! Everything was a mess! God by His Holy Spirit led me to repentance, drew me into His Word, began to teach me the Truth by His Spirit, and began a lifelong process of sanctification in which daily He renews my mind and transforms my life by His Spirit through His Word in preparing me for eternity with Him and ever using me to help others to become forever followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, at long last, I live and breathe to love, honor, revere, praise, worship, and serve God. I have finally become willing to forsake all for the Lord, leaving behind me my wants, wishes, and desires so that I can

be available 24-7 to love, adore, and serve Him in my ministry as an evangelist, author, and special needs and senior rescued dogs caretaker. I spend every day loving Him, seeking Him in prayer and Bible study with His Spirit teaching me and continual communication and communion with Him, learning to follow Him.

While my heart hurts every single day over all the losses and challenges I have faced, and continue to face, I no longer get lost in any of it. For I know now Jesus Christ died on the cross for me not so I could live for me, but so I could live for God almighty forever in Christ. Oh, what joy! What joy! What light! How glorious is God!

Are you ready to leave the darkness behind and to walk in the light of the Lord forever?

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Ever since the first man and woman Adam and Eve sinned against God and were kicked out of their perfect lives in the Garden of Eden and lost most importantly their relationship with God, all humans have been born into sin which results in the curse

leading to death and eternal separation from God in hell and the lake of fire. Why? Because we as sinners cannot be in the presence of a perfect and holy God. We all fall short of God's glory, and nothing we can do can earn His love, forgiveness, and everlasting life.

But God loves us so much He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to the earth as a man, to die a heinous death on the cross to pay the death and hell penalty for our sins by taking God's wrath at us for our sins upon Himself, and to be raised from the dead and to now sit on the right hand of God in heaven until He returns again as the final steps unfold leading to His forever Kingdom of heaven that will be filled with Christ's followers. If we repent of our sins, believe Jesus is the Son of God and died for us and was raised from the dead and is Lord, turning from our sins to a life devoted to God and His ways, we are forgiven and enter into a relationship with God and receive the promise of eternal life. We are born again spiritually with a clean slate and saved from God's wrath, death, and hell and the lake of fire.

Belief in Christ as Lord is NOT an intellectual faith. Even the demons believe. True faith in Christ is

an ongoing belief in Him, all that He is, did, is doing, says in the Bible, and a true trust in Him as Lord whereby we turn from our wicked ways and live according to the ways God teaches us in the Bible. We are not called to just believe in Christ in our minds. We are called to follow Him by yielding to God our very lives and demonstrating in our hearts, words, and actions that we have turned away from the ways of the world and turned to the Lord. We are to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him whereby we die to ourselves and live for Him. Countless people who believe they will spend eternity with God in heaven based on an intellectual belief, an emotional experience, church attendance, good works, etc., will be turned away by Christ and end up in hell and the lake of fire forever apart from God because they neglected to understand and put into practice that believing in, and following, Christ is a WAY OF LIFE of living for God!

God commands us above all else to love Him with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. Once born again, we must go through a life-long sanctification process whereby our minds are renewed

by studying the Bible, our lives are transformed by God's Spirit, and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Good works cannot earn our salvation, but good works should be the fruit of true repentance demonstrating that we are truly living our lives for the Lord. Our purpose on this earth is to love God, to love others, to proclaim the Gospel message to others and to help lead people into God's Kingdom as we follow Christ, using the gifts God has given each of us to bring Him glory while rejoicing in and enjoying forever fellowship with Him!

The journey following Jesus can be incredibly hard, but it is amazingly beautiful when we walk in intimate fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, devoting ourselves in love, faithfulness, devotion, and dedication to God almighty.

When we learn to walk with the Lord and to live the dreams He has for our lives, forsaking our own will and ways as we learn to live for Him and no longer for ourselves, we experience an intimate, personal relationship with God that is more beautiful and lasting than anything or anyone on this entire earth.

His love for us is forever, and the sacrifice we make in choosing to live the new life He has given us according to His ways and not ours is nothing compared with the love and the peace and the hope and joy He offers us for now and eternity in Christ.

There is no greater blessing, honor, nothing more humbling and amazing, than choosing to humble ourselves, to repent and believe in Christ as Lord, to surrender ourselves to God and live to love and serve and exalt and magnify and revere and honor and praise and bring glory to God forever!

YOUR NEW BEGINNING

If you are ready for a fresh start and to be born again, and if you truly believe what I have shared with you here, then repent from your sins and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Cry out to God to save you, tell Him you are sorry for your sins and want His forgiveness, tell Him you know Jesus is His only begotten Son who came to the earth in the flesh and that He is Lord, and that you believe God resurrected Him from the dead.

Lots of people talk about saying a specific prayer to invite Jesus into your heart. I do not recommend that you say anybody else's prayer but your very own. Being reborn is about repenting and turning to God by receiving Jesus into your life as Lord and Savior and receiving the gift of God's Holy Spirit. This needs to happen as a result of your own true sorrow over your sins and your own genuine belief in Jesus and what He did on the cross for you.

When you are reborn, and you have been brought out of darkness and into God's amazing light, you now have a fresh start. Now that you believe in Jesus as your Lord, you need to learn how to follow Him and to develop a strong, personal relationship with God.

Study and apply the Bible to your life daily, and watch God transform your life. I mainly use the King James version of the Bible, which some consider the most accurate translation from the original Hebrew and Greek languages. I sometimes use ESV and occasionally refer to others, but keep KJV as my main Bible. Be warned some translations are considered dangerously inaccurate. Please do your research!

Assemble regularly with other followers of Jesus whether in a church setting, a Bible study, a house church, or another similar setting. Faith comes by hearing God's Word, so be sure to hear it preached by someone who is strongly grounded in the Bible.

God warns us that as the world draws to a close and evil abounds, false teachers will come and many will be deceived. No matter how loving, comfortable, or good a person, church or pastor seems, make sure what you hear lines up with what the Bible teaches. The Bible is God's Word, so you should measure everything in your life against it to make sure it's from Him.

Spend time with God daily, praising Him, praying, pouring out your heart to Him, studying the Bible, listening to Him, making the changes He wants you to make, and learning to bring Him honor and glory in all that you do.

Above all else, always make Him your priority and make His will for your life your road map for living as you learn to follow Jesus. God speaks to His children through the Bible because it is His Word. Jesus says in the Bible, "My sheep know my voice." As you

develop your relationship with God, you should hear Him speaking to you. When God speaks into your heart, or through others to you, He will never speak against His own Word. So always check what you believe you hear from Him, or any counsel you receive from others, with the Bible to make sure it matches His Word. If what you hear does not line up with the Bible, it is not from Him.

It is my privilege and honor to have shared with you my own personal story and how you, too, can move from darkness to light and have a fresh start, begin and develop your own intimate relationship with God, and enjoy His love now and forever in heaven. May you love and bring glory to Him forevermore!



SCRIPTURES

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:37-40

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one.” Romans 3:10

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” Eph. 5:6

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth

as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Mt. 13:41-43

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

John 3:3-6

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:9

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” Colossians 1:13

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:” John 10:27

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Mt. 7:21-23

“...Take heed that no man deceive you...And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Matthew 24:4-13



A Special Request

If you are finished reading my personal story and the life-changing message that goes with it, I invite you to flip to the back cover to learn a little more about the work I do and how to get in touch with me.

But first, I have a special request. If you have finished reading this *Finding the Light* Gospel tract and do not believe you will read it again in the future, please don't throw it away. Instead, would you consider giving it to a friend, family member, co-worker, someone you know well or a complete stranger, sending it in the mail to someone, leaving it in a public location where someone might pick it up, or giving it to whomever wherever you are led?

Remember the life-changing prayer I found on the beach that someone left behind? Only God knows how He might use what is contained within these pages to change the course of someone else's life on earth and eternity.

Love & blessings,

Lara

About Lara Love

I am a 100% Jewish follower of Christ, evangelist & author & special needs & senior rescued dogs caretaker devoted 24-7 to loving and serving the Lord and helping people to become and remain forever followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For loads of love, encouragement, inspiration, and help, and to read my story & see my books, Gospel tracts & devotionals, & Daily Inspiration online & via e-mail, and to meet the ministry's very special dogs, please visit me and my ministry online & feel free to get in touch if you are led!

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